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**CHAIRMAN'S TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM, AUTUMN 1990
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

PREPARED FOR
THE REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S TASK FORCE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BY

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Background	3
Method	4
Results	5
Community Workshops	5
Ideas Telephone Line	9
Comment Sheets	10
Written Submissions	12
Conclusions	13
Major Issues	13
Transcendent Values	14
Specific Values	14
APPENDIX	16
Copy of Comment Sheet	
Findings	
Dundas Community Workshop	
Ancaster Community Workshop	
Flamborough Community Workshop	
Glanbrook Community Workshop	
Stoney Creek Community Workshop	
Downtown Hamilton Community Workshop	
Hamilton Mountain Community Workshop	
Ideas Telephone Line	
Vision Survey Comments	
Written Submissions	
List of those making submissions	

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to summarize the findings of the Task Force's public participation activities carried out in October and November of 1990. The report outlines the general purposes of the Fall public participation program, the results of the community workshops, phone-in line, comment sheets and written submissions. By way of a content analysis, the report identifies the main thoughts and ideas contributed by citizens through the Fall public participation activities.

BACKGROUND

The Terms of Reference for the Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development requires, as one of six purposes, the establishment of a "...public outreach programme to increase public awareness of the concept of sustainable development and to act as a vehicle for feedback on potential goals, objectives and policies for the Region". As part of its workplan, the Task Force designed a public participation strategy that set out a six part program to achieve a series of nine public participation goals adopted by the Task Force. The goals of the public participation process fall into three general categories:

Education Goals

1. To inform the general population of the basic principles of sustainable development and of the purpose and mandate of the Task Force.
2. To inform citizens of the range of Regional government activities such as services, public expenditures and investment, the Regional Official Plan and the Economic Strategy.
3. To communicate information generated by citizens back to the public.

Citizen Input Goals

4. To gather citizen concerns and perceptions regarding the quality of their environment and life that can be used to identify issues.
5. To gather citizen perspectives on basic values and goals that can be used to develop a set of principles to guide the preparation of a Regional Vision Statement.

Quality Goals

6. To reach out to groups in the population that are not normally part of the decision making process such as children, youth, the disadvantaged and the non-english speaking community.
7. To develop community awareness and support for the work of the Task Force that will result in long term community support for the implementation of the Regional Vision Statement.

8. To achieve meaningful citizen participation that provides good quality information to the Task Force and is an empowering exercise for citizens.
9. To draw out those citizens who wish to be involved more deeply in the Task Force's work as members of issue working groups.

To achieve these goals, the public participation strategy proposed six avenues of action:

1. A media campaign
2. Individual feedback opportunities
3. Community workshops
4. Focus groups
5. Children and youth program
6. A regional community forum

In late October and for the month of November, 1990, the Task Force initiated the first three parts of the public participation strategy. A broad media campaign was conducted that included use of local print, radio and television media and the preparation and distribution of the first Task Force Visions newsletter. Individual feedback opportunities were provided in the form of a call for written submissions through the newsletter, a comment sheet distributed at public open houses and a dedicated phone-in line. The major part of the Fall activities was however, the community workshops that were held in each area municipality in Hamilton-Wentworth. Community workshops were scheduled as follows:

Dundas:	Town Hall Auditorium, Monday, October 29, 1990
Flamborough:	Millgrove Community Centre, Thursday, November 8, 1990
Ancaster:	Optimist Youth Centre, Wednesday, November 14, 1990
Glanbrook:	Binbrook Memorial Hall, Thursday, November 15, 1990
Stoney Creek:	Stoney Creek Scout Hall, Monday, November 19, 1990
Hamilton:	City Hall, Thursday November 22, 1990
Hamilton Mtn:	St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Monday, November 26, 1990

The workshops had two parts: a drop-in open house in the afternoon with a free standing display, videos, literature and Regional staff on hand; and a community discussion group in the evening where citizens were led through a guided discussion by Task Force members. Citizen comments were taken down on flip charts and a transcript of these is appended to this report.

The remaining three components of the public participation strategy are either under way or in preparation and will be the subject of a subsequent report.

METHOD

The information generated in the Fall public participation program consists entirely of citizen thoughts, ideas and comments. The data were not gathered according to a scientific survey methodology and as such do not represent a statistically valid polling of public opinion in

Hamilton-Wentworth. Citizens came out to the workshops, called the ideas line, or submitted a comment sheet or written submission out of their own interest in sustainable development and in future policy development in Hamilton-Wentworth. As such, the public participation program was more an exercise in community based politics than a social science exercise.

The information assembled was analyzed using a simple content analysis method. Ideas were organized into groups that appear to have some common element linking them. This is a subjective approach that no doubt reflects the outlook and biases of professional planners. Those interested are encouraged to examine the information presented in the appendices to see if alternative, and perhaps more appropriate, groupings can be defined. The grouped ideas have been rank ordered according to the frequency of comments in each group.

RESULTS

This report presents information gathered from four sources: the community workshops, the ideas phone-in line, responses to comment sheets available at the afternoon open-house sessions, and written submissions.

Community Workshops

Approximately 157 people attended the Community Workshops throughout the region. Although relatively few in number, the citizens who came out were thoughtful, articulate and generated many ideas related to issues of concern, values of importance and suggested ways to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth. The activities in the evening were divided into two parts: approximately one to two hours of guided community brainstorming and roughly one hour of general open discussion with the Task Force members present. In the brainstorm, citizens were asked to respond to four questions in turn:

1. What do I like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?
2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?
3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?
4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

In essence, the purpose of the questions was to elicit citizen thoughts on which issues need to be addressed and which values should guide the ongoing work of the Task Force. Citizen responses to these questions were recorded on flip charts and posted on the walls. These thoughts then served as a point of departure for the follow up general discussion. The results of this exercise are transcribed and appear in the appendices.

A content analysis of the results reveals the following, in order of priority:

Question 1. What is liked about Hamilton-Wentworth:

1. Community Character:

including such aspects as human scale; small size with big city amenities; quality of life; proximity to countryside, Toronto and the U.S.A.; distinctive neighbourhoods and communities.

2. Natural Areas and Amenities:

including specifically the Royal Botanical Gardens; the Dundas Valley; Conservation Authority lands; the Harbour; the Niagara Escarpment; and the beauty of the natural setting.

3. Human Vitality:

specifically the friendly people; community loyalty; roots; cultural diversity; safety and the spirit of voluntarism.

4. Transportation Access:

ease of movement throughout the region.

5. Economic and Employment Opportunity:

diversity of options in both areas.

6. Rural Landscape:

the farmland and open country in the region.

Question 2: What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

1. Transportation:

including automobile dependency; insufficient facilities for pedestrians and cyclists; inadequate public transit; delays in road and expressway construction.

2. Poor Quality Urban Development:

including poor fit between buildings and the natural and cultural setting; sprawl; piecemeal development; and the negative effect of urban development on natural areas.

3. Pollution and Environmental Degradation:

including air, water and land pollution; toxins in the environment; soil loss; ground water contamination; pollution of Hamilton Harbour.

4. Social Issues:

problems for the handicapped and the elderly; inadequate services; emerging problems such as vandalism, apathy, safety concerns, animosity in social relations; poverty and affordability problems.

5. Poor Government Performance:

including inaction and lack of commitment to plans; poor law enforcement; a perceived preference on part of politicians for tax growth over quality of life concerns; lack of consistency in decision-making; inaccessible government.

6. Economic Problems:

including competition under the Free Trade Agreement; poor economic focus in the region; overdependence on steel and heavy manufacturing.

Question 3: What should be done:

1. Protect and Rehabilitate the Environment:

plant trees; institute better pollution control; mandatory recycling; ban toxins; control litter; develop a solid waste strategy.

2. Bolder and More Responsive Local Government:

greater citizen participation; coordination; fair taxation; equity; priority rank expenditures; local autonomy.

3. Improved and More Balanced Transportation:

more emphasis on bicycles, walking and public transit; upgrade highways; either build or find alternatives to the Red Hill Creek Expressway and Perimeter Road; bring in full GO Rail service; institute flexible work hours; construct inclines up the escarpment.

4. Pursue a Diverse, Self-Sufficient Economy:

do not become a bedroom to Metro-Toronto; strengthen the rural economy; promote quality of life; find jobs that match skill base in the region; pursue high growth industries and high paying jobs.

5. Protect Rural Landscape and Preserve Farmland:

make farming economically viable; establish a firm urban boundary; set aside a greenbelt; preserve woodlots; re-forest where appropriate; control population growth.

6. Improve Social and Community Services:

address aging population's needs; upgrade hospitals; address poverty; invest in knowledge and life-skills.

7. Improve the Quality of Urban and Community Design:

stress aesthetics; ensure a sensitive fit to the natural environment; cluster rural settlement in hamlet areas; protect neighbourhoods.

Question 4: Values that should guide development:

1. Citizen participation and individual and local responsibility.

2. Farmland and rural landscape protection.

3. Conservation and preservation.

Quality of life and livability.

4. Compassion, dignity and tolerance.

Equity now and for future generations.

Growth and diversification of the local economy.

Health and safety.

5. Diversity.

Environmental quality.

Community identity.

Respect for the earth and nature.

6. Abolition of poverty.

Social justice.

Development over growth.

Conservative values.

Community consensus on a vision.

It should be noted that many ideas are included in the results that are not reflected in this summation. The ideas grouped here are those that appeared most frequently in the information.

Ideas Telephone Line

Thirty five calls were received on the Ideas phone in line. In the analysis of the phoned in comments major points were pulled from the actual tape transcript and then grouped according to apparent categories.

Several points were made by more than one caller. These are:

- Expand and fully utilize the airport (2 calls)
- Institute one tier government (2 calls)
- Get more women on the Task Force (2 calls)

Most calls provided suggestions of things that should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth. They generally fell into the following categories, grouped by order of frequency:

1. Develop an improved, balanced transportation system (12 calls).
2. Local government should be more bold (10 calls).
3. Improve the quality of urban and community design (5 calls)
Protect and rehabilitate the environment (5 calls)
Improve social and community services (5 calls)
4. Protect farmland and the rural landscape (2 calls)

Comment Sheets

The "Vision Survey" comment sheet (see example in appendix) was available at the open house portions of the Community Workshops. Its purpose was to give those who attended the open house, but were unable to attend the evening discussion, an opportunity to submit their thoughts to the Task Force. Thirteen comment sheets were received. The comment sheet asked people to respond to four basic questions:

1. What I like about Hamilton-Wentworth is:
2. What I don't like about Hamilton-Wentworth is:
3. What opportunities should be explored and pursued in Hamilton-Wentworth?
4. If I were planning Hamilton-Wentworth's future I would:

A content analysis of the comments reveals the following in order of priority:

Question 1. What I like about Hamilton-Wentworth is:

1. Natural Features:

R.B.G. and conservation areas; escarpment, Cootes Paradise; Carolinian forest; Lake Ontario and the harbour; wetlands and wildlife; Dundas Valley; proximity to countryside.

2. Community Character:

small, friendly community; cultural activities; low population density; big city with small town feeling.

3. Cultural and Community Facilities:

McMaster University and Mohawk College; support for the arts; medical facilities; Tiger Cats; education.

4. Transportation Access:

ease of movement; phased traffic lights.

Question 2. What I don't like about Hamilton-Wentworth is:

1. Pollution and Environmental Problems:

Mt. Hope tire dump; harbour pollution; Steetley land fill; well water contamination.

2. Transportation:

poor by-pass roads; lack of bicycle facilities and lanes; poor pedestrian access; lack of expressways.

3. Social Problems:

vandalism; lack of affordable housing; lack of concern for poverty; apathy.

4. Poor Quality Built Environment:

uncontrolled expansion; visually monotonous sprawl; destruction of topography; seedy feel to downtown Hamilton; lack of waterfront park in Hamilton.

5. Poor Government Performance:

sluggish attitude; Regional government.

Question 3. What opportunities should be explored and pursued in Hamilton-Wentworth?

1. Improve Local Economy:

diversify industry; create jobs based on recycling, re-use, and reduction; build on presence of McMaster University; improve local job opportunities.

2. Improve the Environment:

sustainable farming, parks and forests; improve harbour; minimize air pollution; retain woodlots.

3. Improve Transportation:

build Highway 6/Airport by-pass; Regional rapid transit; bike facilities.

Improve Social Welfare and Community Services:

land bank for affordable housing; hostels rather than shelters; upgrade Chedoke Hospital.

4. Improve Appearance and Quality of Community:

improve visual appearance of downtown Hamilton; preserve heritage buildings.

Question 4. If I were planning Hamilton-Wentworth's future I would:

1. Improve Transportation:

rapid transit; limit cars downtown; facilities for cyclists, pedestrians; GO rail; improved cross town access.

2. Improve Quality of Built Environment:

prevent strip development; plan attractive main streets; control signage; build neighbourhoods not just surveys.

3. Preserve and Improve Natural Areas:

create more greenspace; plant trees in urban areas; adopt a tree preservation by-law.

Deal with Waste and Toxins:

institute mandatory recycling; control toxic waste and CFC's.

4. Preserve Farmland and the Rural Landscape:

concentrate housing in hamlets; preserve beauty of countryside.

Alleviate Poverty:

improve lot of the poor; distribute affordable housing around the region.

Written Submissions

Sixteen written submissions were submitted by either organizations or individuals. A list of these individuals and agencies is included in the appendix.

In general, comments can be grouped into the following categories by order of priority:

1. Protect and improve environmental quality.
2. Develop an improved and integrated transportation system.
3. Institute innovative waste management options.
4. Protect farmland and institute sustainable farm practices.
5. Develop a self-sufficient, diverse, sustainable economy.
Institute more responsive, effective local government services.

A number of specific comments were made many times. Paraphrasing, these include:

- Develop improved facilities for bicycles and pedestrians and link them into the transportation system (6 comments).

- Improve public transit including transit to outlying areas, use electric buses instead of diesel, and harmonize the transportation system to give maximum safety and efficiency (6 comments).
- Encourage energy conservation, recycling, the use of renewable energy resources (solar) and energy efficient urban design (4 comments).
- Improve industrial operations including upgrading old processes and technology, insisting on stringent pollution control requirement for new companies, and provide incentives to companies that use recyclables (3 comments).

A number of people identified values that in their view, should guide regional development. Values identified include:

- Promote community and family ties that span generations.
- Fundamental values are health, quality of life, respect for the earth.
- Switch from a materialist definition of quality of life to one stressing health and vitality.
- Use principles developed by the Canadian Healthy Communities Project as a guide.
- The necessity for a moral and spiritual rebirth to deal with the environmental crisis.

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the Fall public participation programme was, simply, to determine what citizens value, and secondly, to determine what issues are of concern to them. A great deal of information was gathered and is presented most completely in the appendix to this report. Nevertheless, within the diversity of thoughts and ideas recorded, a number of basic themes recur.

Major Issues

Seven major issues concerned most people who participated. They are, in no order of priority:

1. Transportation: there was a general feeling that the transportation system was too auto-dependent, that offered insufficient opportunity for cycling, pedestrians and transit use.
2. Poor Urban Development: there was widespread concern that standard suburban development is unattractive, lacking in a sense of community identity, destructive to the character of the land, and wasteful of scarce resources.

3. Pollution and Environmental Degradation: air, water and soil pollution was a universal concern with specific concerns related to toxins in the environment.

4. Natural Areas: loss of natural areas such as wetlands, woodlots, Carolinian forest areas and encroachment on conservation lands and scenic natural amenities was a common concern.

5. Economy: concern regarding over-dependence on manufacturing, a lack of dynamic initiative in the economy and shrinking employment opportunities.

6. Local Government: widespread perception that local government is not responsive to citizens, shows a lack of leadership and exhibits little commitment to long term plans and policies.

7. Emerging Social Problems: concern was expressed over emerging problems of poverty, security, an aging population and growing problems of affordability.

Transcendent Values

A number of values were identified that are general in nature, and represent the kind of society participants felt should be developed in Hamilton-Wentworth. In no order of priority these include:

Compassion, Dignity, Tolerance, Equality, Respect for the Earth, Social Justice, Community, Health and Vitality, Quality of life over growth, Conservation and Preservation.

Specific Values

Nine specific values were commonly expressed, that are best expressed as directives of the kind of regional community the Task Force should be pursuing. Again in no order of priority, they are:

1. Ensure community character and identity are preserved and enhanced.
2. Preserve and enhance natural areas and amenities.
3. Preserve farmland and the rural landscape.
4. Ensure the continuance of a friendly, safe, and diverse human community.
5. Develop an integrated, balanced and efficient regional transportation system.
6. Protect and rehabilitate the air, water and soil.
7. Develop a self-sufficient, diverse, sustainable local economy.

8. Improve the appearance and fit (with the natural and community context) of the built environment.
9. Alleviate poverty.

APPENDIX

**Findings of Citizen Participation Program
Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development**

1. Community Workshops

Citizen Comments: Dundas Community Workshop, October 31, 1990

1. What do I like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Friendly people
Conservation areas
Five minutes from work
Accessibility
Variety of employment
Niagara escarpment
Home
Not Toronto
Charm of rural development
Size
University
Heritage areas
Different cultures
Cultural facilities and activities (music etc.)
Transportation
Synchronized stop lights
Dundas valley
Beauty

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Lack of entry level and permanent jobs
Difficulties for handicapped people
Ugly suburban development (eg: along Governor's Road in Dundas)
Development that destroys the character of the land
Environmentally abusive development
No commitment to long term goals by local governments
Exploitation of the Escarpment
Automobile emphasis
Water and air pollution
Litter on the streets
Destruction of the land
Lack of fit with natural landscape
Lack of affordable housing
Limited efficient mass transit

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

More sensitive and creative development control
Stress good taste, beauty, and design aesthetics in urban development

Get a fair share of increased immigration
Involve citizens in political decisions appropriate to community
Comprehensive environmental inventory
Take advantage of heritage resources
Establish new focus for employment
Social services for an aging population
Plant more trees
Environmental assessment of the region
Education about individual's impact on the environment
Put environment first in decision making
Prioritize government expenditures

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Conservation
Emphasis on retaining a high quality of life
Protect positive features and resources (stringently)
Diversity
Clean air and water
Commitment by all citizens to long term welfare of the community
Value of the family
Tolerance
Abolition of poverty
Learn from others mistakes
Preservation
Social justice
Fairness
Don't compromise the future for the present
Value tradition
Cultural and educational development

5. Points raised during the general discussion

Don't forget about job creation while striving for a better quality of life.

Limits to development: the problem of the breakdown of neighbourhoods and local community.

Re-establish local community focus: stress proximity of home to workplace, ability to walk to services, a clear sense of place, a social focus for the community.

Community based government services (neighbourhood offices).

Develop more creative public programs to deal with environmental problems (eg: household toxic wastes).

Political commitment to adopted plans and policies.

Preserve community character and scale; don't become just another part of the golden horseshoe.

Take pride in Hamilton-Wentworth and its self-sufficiency.

The kind of community we want:

- A caring community, for each other and the environment
- A complete community, with self-sufficiency in employment, culture, sport and shopping.
- The region as an association of distinctive communities.
- Sacrifice simple efficiency for the quality of community life.
- Human scale in the sense of knowing people and maintaining sense of cohesion.
- Communities with personality.

Citizen Comments: Ancaster Community Workshop, November 14, 1990

1. What do you like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Public transit
Escarpment
Excellent library facilities
Good municipal services
Educational opportunities
Orchestra
Recycling
Conservation areas
Accessibility
Historical attributes
Nature
Culture
No municipal debt
Royal Botanical Gardens
Multi-cultural population
Safety
Urban-rural mix
Ease of traffic movement
Accessibility of two tier government
Good hospitals
Schooling, jobs, experience
Sense of community loyalty

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Poor water quality in Great Lakes (and public acceptance of this)
Litter
Lack of adequate fitness/lifestyle programs for seniors
Monopoly interest in land development
Free trade
Sunday shopping
Lack of social services (eg: daycare)
Use of farmland for sod production
Ontario Municipal Board involvement in local planning
Too many access points to Highway 403
Smoking in public places
Poor traffic law enforcement
Volume of commuters

- Development on farmland
- Vandalism
- Monster homes
- Lack of affordable housing
- Development on or near the escarpment
- Airport noise
- Public apathy
- Poor water quality
- Lawn spraying
- Toxic contamination
- Poor control over development of natural areas
- Disappearing rural community
- Truck traffic and hazardous goods movement
- Poor enforcement of Niagara Escarpment Plan by-laws
- Land speculation
- Poor economic focus
- Too many highways, power lines and utility lines in Ancaster
- Lack of bicycle paths and facilities
- Over emphasis on automobile
- Non-use of opportunities for bikeways and walkways
- Planned expansions to highways

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

- Educate the public to the benefits of physical fitness
- Levy development charges for passive parkland
- More effective development control
- Improve and expand public transit including GO rail
- Greater stress on walkways/bikeways for transportation
- Facilities to handle hazardous wastes
- Plant more trees/vegetation
- Preserve good farm land
- Tax excess packaging and disposables
- Protect wetlands
- Promote carpooling
- Improve McMaster Medical Centre
- Reduce work hours and introduce flexible work hours
- Recycle (trees, brush, batteries, plastic, motor oil)
- Fine people who do not separate degradables from garbage
- Establish a farmers market in Ancaster
- Conduct continuing education on environmental issues
- Develop more hiking paths
- Ban four wheel drive off-road vehicles
- Start a bicycle holiday to create interest

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

- Health
- Respect for the earth
- Sustain the environment
- Public participation
- Impact on succeeding generations

Open space and green space
Consider the disabled
Consider those in financial need
Dignity
Stress gross national welfare over gross national product
Protection for the physical environment
Change from "me first" to community well-being
Preserve Carolinian forest areas.

5. Points raised during the general discussion

Concern over uncontrolled development: increase densities, innovative housing techniques, protection of farmland.

Population control: growth limitation.

Agriculture: preservation, market, put greater stress on farming, self-sufficiency in food.

Selflessness instead of selfishness: preserve for everyone, careful development controls.

Quality of life: pedestrian amenities, community events.

Reduce and recycle: packaging and driving.

Transportation.

Preservation of unique natural resources.

Retain identifiable community character: heritage buildings, museums, community media, buy local, less commercial lifestyle, local events.

Noise.

Waste management: control of toxins, recycling.

Pollution: control, law enforcement and fines.

Citizen Comments: Flamborough Community Workshop, November 8, 1990

(Note: Flamborough residents preferred to talk strictly about Flamborough at the meeting)

1. What do I like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Low cost of real estate
Tourism and attractions
It's not Toronto
Transportation access to Toronto and Hamilton
Prosperous farms
Roots in the community
Not an elitist community
Diverse groups

Physical beauty
Quiet
Safety
Small size
Quality of water
Rural in close proximity to the urban
Great social and economic potential
Good planning for industrial base - balance
Small businesses
Escarpment and conservation authority land
Small community feeling
Clean water and air
Spirit of voluntarism
Caring people
Neighbourliness
A self contained community (economic, social, cultural)
Diverse recreation possibilities

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Lack of pedestrian access (sidewalks in rural areas)
Increased truck traffic on rural roads
Inadequate government transportation studies
Lack of diversified housing mix
Certain areas are becoming elitist
Growth and attitudes of existing residents equally to blame
Lack of education on municipal services
Contamination of groundwater
Industrial development and landfill on the escarpment
Political preference for bigger tax base and more development
Diminishing social and environmental diversity
Inadequate planning
Lack of public transit
Apparent uncontrolled growth
Effect of growth on the ecosystem
Poor culverts and storm drainage in rural areas
Loss of arable land and wetlands
Lack of blue box program
Lack of commercial and industrial recycling

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Re-examine how much space people need (density)
Better coordination and integration in planning
More efficient heating systems
More equitable planning
Practical ways to deal with problems
Examine how some municipalities use parkland dedication for actual parkland
Higher densities in urban areas to protect farmland
Go beyond consumer society
Educate to change attitudes of next generation
Re-think problems and how we do things

Deeper understanding of the problems
Integrated decision making
More affordable homes
Cluster development in rural hamlets
More seniors housing
Better conservation techniques (home heating and waste)
Protect farmland
Control population growth
Come to community consensus on direction
Strive for equity
Find fair ways to protect the rural landscape
More parks and bicycle paths
preserve neighbourhoods
lower expectations of consumption

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Livability (enjoyment broadly speaking)
Conservation of natural habitat
Emphasis on quality over quantity
Conserver society
Long view rather than short term
Sharing attitude
Community based policy choice
Get people involved
Assume personal responsibility
Develop conserver values
Build to last - end throw away philosophy
Planning that integrates environment, housing and local needs
Active, creative planning, not reactive planning
Prepared to make trade offs
Need for a vision
Look for common values, avoid obvious differences
Diversity
Respect and appreciation for nature
Emphasis on a healthy community
Ownership of problems and solutions by the local community
Marry idea of personal ownership with trusteeship
Stress democratic process
Recognize we only borrow the land
Safety
Give equal consideration to all before resolution of conflicts
Respect for property rights

Citizen Comments: Glanbrook Community Workshop, November 15, 1990

1. What is good about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

It's not Toronto
Physical geography (escarpment, lake)
Friendly people
Rural/urban mix

Good area for living
Public facilities (cultural, medical, sports, education)
Glanbrook is small and friendly
Volunteer Fire Department
Good senior's facilities
Great development potential
Open space
Affordable housing costs
Accessibility to city
Airport
Good farm land

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Cost of housing
Regional government and taxation
Poor public transit
Poorly developed industrial parks
Winter
Young can't afford to buy a home in Glanbrook
Hamilton-Wentworth police and other urban regulations
Paved roads in rural area (cost and need dubious)
Poor by-law enforcement (tire dumps)
Development on Upper James constrains access

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Spend more tax dollars locally
Make farming economically feasible
Review restrictive policies governing rural land use
Consider more rural severances
Maintain large rural residential lots
Taxation should reflect services received
Don't allow H-W to become a bedroom community for Metro
Build the Red Hill Creek Expressway
Re-develop old industrial areas possibly for housing
Extend sewer and water lines to Binbrook
Strengthen rural economy
Reduce taxes
Upgrade airport to "regional" status
Promote economic growth
Improve GO rail service
Improve facilities at mountain hospitals
Develop a regional solid waste strategy
Institute fee for garbage pick up
Acquire machinery to aid composting
Improve access to recreation facilities
Retain local autonomy
Increase parkland dedication requirement for new development
Gear property tax to income
Finish work on Lake Niapenco Conservation area
Preserve wetlands

Improve ambulance service
 Educate to reduce waste (eg: disposable diapers)
 Exercise consumer power to reject excess packaging
 Evaluate health regulations that promote excess packaging
 Establish balance between regulations governing human (septic) waste and farm waste (manure)
 Build indoor swimming pool in Glanbrook
 Improve lane markings on Highway 6 (eg: cat's eyes)
 Widen Highway 53 from Highway 20 to Highway 6
 Tunnel under lake Ontario for transportation
 Educate children about litter/pollution
 Promote business responsibility for pollution/litter
 Minimize strip plazas/malls and fast food places
 Keep surface water courses in natural state
 Improve co-ordination between government agencies and levels of authority
 Implement improvement plans for Highway 6
 Develop more options for teens (programs etc.)
 More co-operation between neighbouring municipalities
 Design seniors homes more like small garden homes
 Maintain sense of Glanbrook's uniqueness
 Improve safety on Highway 20
 Improve public access to Hamilton Harbour
 Preserve woodlots, build on already cleared land
 Re-forest in suitable areas
 Standardize school curriculum to reduce taxes
 Increase control of industrial parks to reduce hazards and litter

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Preservation of local identity
 Subsidize Canadian agriculture
 Upgraded image of farmer
 Give environment priority
 Preserve agricultural land if possible
 Be prepared to pay more for food to preserve farmland
 Self-sufficiency in food production
 Promote H-W more aggressively
 Service to encourage development
 Support local economy
 Balance needs of individual landowner with needs of community
 Minimize need for landfills
 Community should be responsible for its own waste
 25% affordable housing in each municipality
 Social integration

5. Points raised during the general discussion

Vision of Glanbrook in future:

- more programs like homesharing
- more balanced economy (light industry)
- Binbrook will be a rural flavoured town centre
- Mt. Hope will be an airport related settlement

- Glanbrook won't be simply a southern extension of Hamilton
- Fair share taxation and a more balanced tax structure
- Blended urban/rural mix
- landscape similar to upstate New York with mixed farms and estate lots
- Young people can afford to live in Glanbrook
- A socially integrated community
- Intensive development on serviced land with large lot unserviced non-farm development
- A separate community identity

Citizen Comments: Stoney Creek Community Workshop, November 19, 1990

1. What do I like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Royal Botanical Gardens
 Niagara Escarpment
 Harbour and the physical setting
 Farmland and open country
 Cultural mix/cosmopolitan nature of the region
 Diversity of development
 Proximity to Toronto
 Proximity to U.S.A.
 Short travel times and distances
 Relatively affordable housing
 Relatively fast cross town traffic times

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Deficiency in recreational facilities (eg: hockey time)
 Economic dependency on steel and metal fabricating
 Monopoly of developers
 Lack of sidewalks and bike paths/lanes
 Urban sprawl
 Lack of public transit in Stoney Creek
 Low speed limits on cross town roads
 Low speed limits on Regional roads and Burlington Street
 Air pollution
 Strip malls

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Fix water valves protruding through sidewalks
 Preserve escarpment as a green space
 Scrap Red Hill Creek Expressway
 Come up with alternative route if the expressway is scrapped
 Faster cross town traffic movement, more through roads
 Improve co-operation between municipal governments and Regional government
 Improve public transportation
 Better education on environmental sustainability in schools
 Make the Stoney Creek Escarpment a people place
 Develop people oriented parks on the escarpment with high rise development back from the edge
 Clean up fallen trees around Highway 20
 Protect unique natural features in a greenbelt

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

More attention to quality
Less emphasis on growth
Better planning (ie: compatible development/people orientation)
Integration of environmental, social and economic decision making
Replace trees removed at rate of 2 for 1
Replant with natural species and diversity
Stress healthy community model
Environmentally friendly employment growth

Citizen Comments: Downtown Hamilton Community Workshop, November 22, 1990

1. What do you like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Good standard of living (relatively affordable, cheap office space, and parking)
The people
Medical care is second to none
Quality education at all levels
Fuel efficient one-way streets
Education of children directed at environmental awareness
Hamilton airport (convenient, easy access)
Cultural institutions (theatres, libraries, musical societies)
Human scale of the city (social and physical)
Abundant green space
Distinctive neighbourhoods (Corktown etc.)
Topographic variety and interest (eg: the Escarpment)
Historical architecture
Farmer's Market
Princess Point, Cootes Paradise
Physical beauty of the city
Trails close to the city
Accessibility of Harbour and Lake Ontario

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Focus on private automobile
Lack of corporate vehicle policy (eg: HSR bus idling)
Few bikepaths
Lack of safety for cyclists and pedestrians
Unfriendly public spaces for children and the disabled
Poor national image of Hamilton
View from Skyway Bridge
Noxious smell of the air
Poor air quality particularly in the East End
Litter on roads
Inaccessible politicians
Too much talk, not enough action by local government
Public apathy and cynicism regarding politicians and bureaucrats
Pollution of the Harbour: it cannot take any more
Uncertainty about economic health of the region

Poor job availability for certain kinds of people
Increasing levels of animosity in peoples's interaction
Lack of vocal environmental groups
Lack of Regional action on waste management
Household and other hazardous waste

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Investigate differential tax rates for different communities
Force industry to locate on vacant industrial land
Enforce by-laws controlling debris on roads
Increased joint ventures between government, McMaster and Mohawk
Take action on policy decisions
Ensure job creation for the people and skill mix in H-W
Make better use of existing cultural facilities
Build an east-west bikeway
Improve mountain access for bicycles
Improve night safety for women and children
Preserve CPR wheelhouse
Increase rational use of property
Stress creation of high paying jobs
Establish packaging free zones
Place greater stress on bicycle use and safety
Provide bicycle facilities
Focus on high growth industries
Develop our own waste management industries
Address the causes of poverty
Improve the education system to stress schooling for life
Focus on manufacture of pollution prevention equipment
Take full advantage of existing skills improvement programs
Invest in people, knowledge and efficiency
Improve water quality in Harbour to permit swimming
Stop raw sewage overflows to Harbour and Cootes Paradise
Improve air quality
Promote tourism
Improve human services, better networking and service to the poor
Learn to think for ourselves
Promote and enhance quality of life advantages to attract industry
Recognize that we are part of an unsustainable continental economy
Ensure drinkable water
Preserve farmland with Official Plan
Local government should show boldness
Increase farm wages
Protect, increase and improve greenspace
Moratorium on road construction and fossil fuel burning vehicles

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Individuals must bear responsibility for waste and other social costs they generate
Collective responsibility for farmland preservation
Change from quick return to long term view
Control expansion of urban area; re-orient inward

Co-operative decision making between rural and urban areas
Safety, cleanliness, quality of life
People first; remain humane
Meaningful employment
Industries should serve local needs
Compassion
Development, not just growth
Need a win-win solution for farmland (preservation and property rights)
Eradicate poverty
Respect needs of country people

Citizen Comments: Hamilton Mountain Community Workshop, November 26, 1990

1. What do I like about life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Initiative of elected officials/leadership
Annual flower show
Gage Park and the RBG
Location on Lake Ontario
Escarpment
Airport
Health care
Central location in Golden Horseshoe
Parks system and green space
Mild climate
Downtown commercial areas: Hess Village, International Village Good restaurants
Educational facilities
Proximity to U.S. shopping
Quality of life
Access to Toronto
Waterfalls
Availability of professional sports
Harbour and Cootes Paradise
Cultural diversity; ethnic festivals
Low cost of living
Historical architecture
Entertainment facilities
Public participation
International leadership (twin cities, mundialization)
Landscaping and home maintenance
The arts
The airport
Dramatic physical setting
Main street west strip
Improved water quality
Co-operative development in social services
Co-operation in community health care
Active, lived in downtown
Good entrepreneurial opportunities
Land market not controlled by one development firm
One way streets and transportation access
Diversified economy

Diverse housing supply
Big city amenities in a small town atmosphere
Sense of safety

2. What detracts from life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Delays in construction of Red Hill Expressway and Perimeter Road
Too many zoning by-law amendments
Negative attitudes
Too much political energy expended on non-local issues
Limited harbour access
Too much energy and time spent on airport
Poor interaction between McMaster and the community
Lack of support for airport by travelling public
Ugliness of Upper James strip
Lack of self confidence
Piecemeal and patchwork development
Decay on Barton Street
Buildings that don't fit context (eg: high rise next to Hess Village)
Insufficient green space in new areas on the mountain
Constant negative comparison to other areas
Lack of student involvement in politics
Poor support for local facilities, retailers
Early store closing hours in the downtown
Reputation for air pollution
Lack of civic pride
Poor road quality east of James street
Removal of trees from construction sites
Too much concrete; not enough trees
Excessively fractious political debate

3. What should be done to improve life in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Install bike paths and racks
Pollution control, develop the industrial expertise here
Good, firm, constant long range plan
Build on leading edge industrial technology
Learn from similar big cities elsewhere (Pittsburgh, Sheffield)
Pass law requiring use of recycled materials
Restore ground floor elevations of heritage buildings
Install incline or restaurant on the Escarpment
Establish firm urban growth boundary
Plan ahead for civic facilities (eg: fire stations)
Establish a greenbelt
Control sign aesthetics
More urban green space
More trees
Strive to be a leader in recycling
Ban styrofoam packaging and other environmentally harmful products
Enact stricter pollution controls
Increased access to Harbour for passive recreation
Provide incentives to attract and develop small business

- Prevent housing encroachment on Escarpment
- Control tree removal
- Complete Red Hill Creek Expressway
- Stop junk mail
- Promote non-polluting industry
- Challenge other cities in striving to be the best
- Plan for garbage disposal recycling
- Slow down and control development near conservation areas
- Prevent tacky development near Escarpment
- Reconsider the idea of a multi-colour waterfall over Escarpment near the Jolly Cut
- Produce more affordable housing
- More outdoor skating rinks
- Improve streetscapes: Upper James, John Street, Barton Street
- Bicycle access up Escarpment (incline or elevator)
- Preserve farmland
- Diversify the economic base
- Promote H-W on its assets (cost advantages, location, beauty)
- Promote H-W to seniors and first time homebuyers
- Alleviate child poverty
- Ban purchase of products made from endangered materials
- Develop Regional composting strategy
- Find way to dispose of hazardous wastes
- Discourage illegal garbage dumping by erecting barriers around Mountain brow
- Keep four wheel off-road vehicles off Escarpment land (King's Forest)
- Encourage McMaster to invest in R&D for environmentally friendly products/processes
- Export knowledge/assistance to third world
- Extend recycling to small business and apartments
- Institute mandatory recycling
- Make better use of Canada Centre for Inland Waters

4. What values should guide development in Hamilton-Wentworth?

- Neighbourhood and community development (beyond just the physical)
- Preserve the good things we have (eg: historical sites)
- Human scale
- High premium on aesthetics
- Consideration for financial costs
- Strong commercial and industrial base
- Maximize public/private partnerships
- Community input to priority setting
- Achievable and realistic goals
- Stress regional outlook
- Future planning orientation (comprehensive)
- Respect for environment and fellow man
- Equality among people
- Cleanliness and security
- Region to be a centre not a satellite of Toronto
- Self-sustaining community
- Make decisions based on quality of life and financial cost
- Target specific areas to achieve demonstrable effect.

2. Ideas Telephone Line

Major points raised

Establish block committees for child safety
Construct bike passes
Expand and fully utilize the airport (2 calls)
Pay more attention to quality of development in rural areas and Dundas and Waterdown
Establish a long term rural development plan that prevents the creation of another Mississauga
Institute one tier government (2 calls)
Get more women on the Task Force (2 calls)
Get full GO train service to Hamilton-Wentworth
Extend the blue box program to apartments
Complete the Red Hill Creek Expressway
Upgrade the Sherman Access
Make Hamilton a party place
Exert greater control over financial waste in government
Keep Red Hill Creek natural
Give higher priority to children's education
Concern for pedestrian safety on busy streets
Keep population levels at numbers the environment can support, less emphasis on the machine and more concern for impact on people's sensibilities and the environment
Concern over government waste when basic needs of many are going unmet
Allow farmers to realize some development potential to remain in business
Achieve debt free status for the Region
Permit more semi-rural residential lot development
Improve parking at Chedoke Hospital and in vicinity of Medical arts building
Improve waterfront parks and provide pedestrian and cycle access
Create bicycle lanes on as many streets as possible
Build a new sewage treatment plant to permit more growth on Mountain
Require houses to be sited to take advantage of solar gain
Dedicate Barton or Cannon Street for electric buses and bicycles
Provide more low income housing
Provide more apartments and condominiums downtown
Build a new bus terminal
Build a better road network
Institute commercial recycling
Enforce anti-litter laws
Address child poverty
Keep taxes down
Limit land speculation
Concern for cost of East West freeway bridge
Limit development on farmland
Concern over wildlife losses in urban area

3. Vision Survey

1. What I like about Hamilton-Wentworth is:

The Dundas Valley
Small friendly communities (3)
Farms

Beauty of the natural environment (4)
 Big city with small town feeling
 Cultural activities (3)
 Ease of automobile transportation (3)
 Royal Botanical Gardens and Conservation areas (3)
 McMaster University and Mohawk College (2)
 Good support for the arts
 Medical facilities
 Niagara Escarpment, Cootes Paradise, Carolinian forest (4)
 Strategic location
 Lake Ontario and the Harbour (2)
 Strategic location of points of interest, shopping malls
 Greater Hamilton promotion material
 Tiger Cats
 Education
 Freedom
 Comparative affordability
 Physical and visual proximity to countryside, conservation lands and water (2)
 Transportation system
 Wetlands and wildlife habitat
 It's not Toronto
 Phased traffic lights
 Low population density

2. What I don't like about Hamilton-Wentworth is:

Mt. Hope tire dump
 Poor traffic by-pass routes
 Vandalism in Ancaster
 Apparently uncontrolled urban expansion
 Visually monotonous urban sprawl
 Lack of affordable housing
 Waiting lists for care for the elderly
 Lack of bicycle paths (3)
 Lack of attractive pedestrian access
 Foul tasting drinking water (2)
 Slow speeds on elevated parts of Burlington Street East
 Absence of expressways
 Lack of waterfront park in Hamilton near downtown
 Sluggish attitude of public administration
 Hamilton Spectator
 Regional government
 Lack of concern for poverty
 Few activities for young people
 Air and water pollution (2)
 Poor cycle and pedestrian access across Highway 403
 Pollution of Harbour (2)
 Lack of commitment to recycling
 Foot dragging on waste reduction
 Apathy
 Seedy feel to Hamilton's downtown
 Steetley landfill

Destruction of natural topography for ugly development
Well water contamination
Fact that Burlington isn't in Hamilton-Wentworth

3. What opportunities should be explored and pursued in Hamilton-Wentworth:

Sustainable farming, parks and forests
Airport
Highway 6 airport by-pass
Chedoke Hospital
Glanbrook Business Park on Nebo Road
Expanded and improved green areas (2)
Improve the Harbour
Improve visual appearance of downtown Hamilton
Retain existing woodlots
Build new administrative centre near Limeridge Mall
Land banking for affordable housing
Waterfront
Preserve heritage buildings
Support local agriculture
Diversify industry
Develop walking, cycling and transit as viable transportation
Create jobs based on the three R's (3)
Install bike facilities and lanes
Build hostels rather than shelters
Improve lifestyles
Build on McMaster University's presence
Bring McMaster downtown, a downtown campus
Minimize air pollution to increase tourism
Install Regional rapid transit system
Improve job opportunities here so people won't have to go to Toronto

4. If I were planning Hamilton-Wentworth's Future I would:

Prevent strip development
Concentrate rural housing in hamlets and villages
Preserve beauty of countryside
Rapid transit corridors for cars, buses and trains
Demolish old, unused buildings for new housing and businesses
Plan attractive and cohesive main street areas
Control signage
LRT system below and above Escarpment linked by inclines
Require new merchants to provide public parking
Re-evaluate neighbourhood concept and harmonize with anticipated 21st century social conditions
Limit cars in downtown Hamilton
Increase transit to downtown
Support small business
Create more green space
Plant trees in urban areas
Preserve natural areas and heritage (3)
Provide first class facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and transit
Clean up harbour and waterfront/lakeshore (2)

- Install safe cycle lanes (2)
- Mandatory recycling of glass
- Enforce rules to keep litter down
- Keep buildings to a maximum height of five stories
- Act on recommendations
- Heritage preservation and community reconstruction
- Good standards in all areas
- One tier government
- Improve the lot of the poor
- Improve social services
- Change taxi system
- Legislate against air pollution
- Legislate against reporting without investigation
- Improve air quality and water quality (2)
- Improve cross town access
- Improve harbour access
- Require individuals and industry to be responsible for their own waste
- Control migration
- Preserve farmland (2)
- Prevent development encroachment on conservation lands
- Build thoroughway linking York Blvd. to the QEW
- Build GO station
- Expand blue box program to plastics
- Remain separate from the Greater Toronto Area
- Monitor all development projects through the Chairman's Advisory Committee on Environmental Issues
- Control toxic wastes
- Control CFC's
- Institute commercial/industrial recycling
- Reduce solid waste production
- Build neighbourhoods not just surveys
- Institute tree preservation by-law
- Distribute affordable housing around the region
- Use upper stories of commercial buildings for housing
- Passenger train service from airport to Toronto

4. Written Submissions

General points raised

Develop improved facilities for bicycles and pedestrians and link into the transportation system (6).

Improve public transit including transit to outlying areas, use electric buses instead of diesel, and harmonize the transportation system to give maximum safety and efficiency (6).

Task Force membership does not have ordinary people on it, no representatives of youth, pensioners, mothers who stay at home, ordinary working folk.

Society is at the stage of impending maturity where we level out and let life work for us, taking time to enjoy the present and the gift that life is (2).

Make Hamilton-Wentworth the hub of the Golden Horseshoe.

Improve the appearance of Hamilton with lights along the mountain brow, waterfalls, more gardens.

Consider what kind of legacy we wish to leave.

Take environment into account and place a higher value on green space (2).

Eliminate plastic packaging and styrofoam.

Search for light, non-polluting industries, including industries that reallocate materials, recycle and improve environmental quality (2).

Tighten controls on rural land severances and re-zonings allowing urban expansion only under strict environmental control (3).

Require mandatory recycling of plastics (2).

Initiate leaf composting program (2).

Tighten controls on lawn feed and pesticide businesses.

Encourage people to buy locally.

Institute regular town hall type meetings.

Require that trees be retained when land is cleared and that more trees be planted (2).

Protect all wetlands including Cootes Paradise (2).

Stop use of farmland for sod growing.

Reduce and eliminate air, land and water pollution (3).

Stop deficit financing of local government expenditures.

Encourage energy conservation, recycling, the use of renewable energy resources (solar) and energy efficient urban design (4).

Stress preventative health and health treatment as opposed to disease treatment, encourage healthy lifestyles by promoting parks and community centres (2).

Encourage suitable housing and promote community and family ties that span generations.

Encourage efficient and accountable government organizations (eg: amalgamated school boards).

Encourage growth of business and tax base.

Fundamental values should be health, quality of life, respect for the earth.

Switch from a materialist definition of quality of life to one stressing health and vitality and the ability to enjoy life.

Ask the question: what will the future cost be if one course is chosen over another?

Provide incentives for organic agriculture and disincentives for un-sustainable farm practices.

Provide incentives for toxin free products and processes and penalties for the use and production of toxins.

Promote job sharing.

Expand and improve natural areas and conservation lands (2).

Use principles developed by the Canadian Healthy Communities Project as a guide for the Task Force.

Prevent parkland from being used for development purposes.

Use the CNR station for GO rail and not the TH & B station.

Re-use derelict industrial land rather than building on farmland.

Reduce airport noise by banning regular night flights and don't expand until noise problems are resolved (2).

We require a moral and spiritual rebirth if we are to avoid self destruction as a society.

There are environmental limits to growth and we should limit immigration to reduce pressure on the ecosystem.

Stress the production of quality goods that take longer to make and last longer requiring craftspeople rather than labourers.

Clean up Hamilton Harbour and Windemere Basin (2).

Provide more and better affordable housing including subsidized housing, integrate low cost housing into future developments (3).

Monitor land fill sites.

Maximize recycling including establishing home composting, and a fee for garbage removal above a set maximum (3).

Inform citizens about environmental problems.

Provide express lanes for cars with passengers.

Improve industrial operations including upgrading old processes and technology, insisting on stringent pollution control requirements for new companies, and provide incentives to companies that use recyclables (3).

Institute an exchange used goods policy.

Use old rail lines for transportation.

Teach how physics, math and chemistry relate to living systems.

Put emphasis on controlled development.

Ensure safety of drinking water.

Monitor septic and weeping tile systems.

Expand parks in the centre of urban areas.

Install bicycle paths throughout Flamborough.

Establish a police station in Flamborough.

Provide community centres with on-site counsellors for children and teens.

Require on-site storage of storm water.

List of those making submissions

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Hamilton, Ontario

Flamborough Ward 7 Ratepayers

Ancaster Committee to Improve our Neighbourhood

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